

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 DOE-15

INT-05 OMB-01 OES-07 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12

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FM AMCONSUL DOUALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1770

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOUALA 0356

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ENRG, CM, NI, EX

SUBJECT: MOBIL INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT KLAERNER DISCUSSES

CAMEROON/NIGERIAN OFFSHORE BOUNDARY WITH CAMEROON PRESIDENT AHIDJO

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 2577 (B) YAOUNDE 1618

1. ON MAY 29 MOBIL INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT KLAERNER AND TWO OTHER MOBIL REPRESENTATIVES CALLED ON CAMEROON PRESIDENT AHMADOU AHIDJO AND BROUGHT UP THE ISSUE OF THE ILL-DEFINED CAMEROON/NIGERIA OFFSHORE BOUNDARY. ADHIDJO WAS INFORMED OF MOBIL'S PLANS TO CONDUCT A SEISMIC SURVEY IN THEIR CONCESSION DURING JULY AND OF THEIR HOPES TO COMMENCE DRILLING ACTIVITIES LATE IN THE YEAR. KLAERNER TOLD AHIDJO THAT MOBIL WOULD PROBABLY BE DRILLING RIGHT UP TO THE WESTERN LIMIT OF THEIR CONCESSION AND THAT THIS POSED PROBLEMS FOR THEM SINCE THEY DO NOT WISH TO POSITION THEIR RIG IN DISPUTED WATERS. IN RESPONSE, AHIDJO STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON (GURC) WAS COGNIZANT OF THE MATTER AND THAT EFFORTS WERE CONTINUING TO RESOLVE THE BOUNDARY QUESTION. HE DID NOT INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GURC WOULD NECESSARILY MAKE A MAJOR DEMARCHE WITH THE
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NIGERIANS AS A RESULT OF MOBIL'S SITUATION. AS REPORTED REF A NIGERIANS ARE AWARE OF PROBLEM AND REALIZE THAT THEY MUST TAKE NEXT STEP TOWARD CONVENING MIXED BOUNDARY COMMISSION. MOBIL REPS FELT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CONTINUE ON A ROUTINE BASIS.

2. MOBIL DIRECTOR FOR CAMEROON FRANCOIS YDIER TOLD THE CONSULATE

THAT MOBIL'S PROBLEM LIES IN THE FACT THAT THEIR CONCESSION EXTENDS TO 8 DEGREES 20' 18" LONGITUDE AND 4 DEGREES 4' 15" LATITUDE AT THE WESTERN LIMIT WHICH IS SOUTHWEST OF POINT G (8 DEGREES 23' 19" LONGTTUDE AND 4 DEGREES 17' 00" LATITUDE), THE SOUTHERN POINT OF THE BOUNDARY LINE AGREED TO BY AHIDJO AND FORMER NIGERIAN PRESIDENT GOWON IN 1975 AND PERSONALLY CONFIRMED BY OBASANJO IN AUGUST 1977. THE BOUNDARY HAS NOT YET BEEN DEMARCATED SOUTH OF 4 DEGREES 17' 00", AND MOBIL IS ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHERE THE LINE MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE DRAWN SOUTH OF POINT G. AHIDJO TOLD THE MOBIL REPS THAT THE LINE WAS DEMARCATED ONLY TO POINT G BECAUSE THAT WAS THE SOUTHERNMOST POINT ON THE MAP USED BY GOWON AND AHIDJO DURING THEIR DISCUSSION IN 1975. MOBIL STANDS TO LOST PART OF ITS CONCESSION, POSSIBLY A PRODUCTIVE PORTION, IF THE LINE IS EVENTUALLY EXTENDED SOUTH OF POINT G. AS LONG AS THERE IS UNCERTAINTY, MOBIL IS RELUCTANT TO MAKE THE INVESTMENT REQUIRED FOR AN ACTIVE EXPLORATORY DRILLING PROGRAM.

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